

DESCRIPTION

This Critical Coastal Area (CCA) watershed flows into the Del Mar Landing “Area of Special Biological Significance” (ASBS), an ocean area monitored and maintained for water quality by the State Water Resources Control Board. Del Mar Landing ASBS borders 0.6 miles of coastline, and overlaps with Del Mar Landing State Marine Park.

The coastal watershed area adjacent to this ASBS is part of Sea Ranch private residential community, which has a walking trail along the coastline. This watershed includes State Highway 1, which is less than ½-mile from the coast. Also, a golf course is located approximately ½-mile north of the ASBS.

[A survey of the ASBS in 2006](#) documented four nonpoint source and stormwater conveyances discharging into the ASBS. With the exception of these discharges, there are no other sources of pollutants known to drain directly into the ASBS. However, eight ephemeral streams draining into or near the ASBS potentially carry pollutants from upstream sources. Homes in the area have septic systems that may contribute pollutants such as bacteria and nutrients into the watershed. There are no waterbodies in this CCA that are listed as impaired on the current (2016) Clean Water Act 303(d) list.



Del Mar Landing
(Photo courtesy of the State Water Resources Control Board).

For more photos, see the [California Coastal Records Project](#).

CRITERIA FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

The Del Mar Landing [Critical Coastal Area](#) (CCA) was identified in 2002 based on the criterion of a coastal watershed that flows into an [Area of Special Biological Significance](#) (Del Mar Landing ASBS), which is also a State Water Quality Protection Area.

ADDRESSING POLLUTANTS

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to make a [list of impaired waters](#) that are not attaining water quality standards, and to develop a [Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) or similar approach to account for all sources of the pollutants that caused the water to be listed as impaired. TMDLs include allocations to both point and nonpoint sources (NPS) of the listed pollutants. The current (2016) 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies includes pollutants, potential pollutant sources, and year a TMDL was approved or is expected.

To address NPS pollutants, see [California's Nonpoint Source Management Measures](#) for guidance on selecting appropriate Management Measures, which consist of a suite of plans, practices, technologies, operating methods, or other measures that may be used to control NPS pollution.

Information for this factsheet was originally compiled by members of California's Critical Coastal Areas Statewide Committee in 2006. The factsheet was revised and updated in 2019 by the California Coastal Commission's Water Quality Program staff.

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